



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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**MARK ROBERT WALKER SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT AFTER
PLEADING GUILTY TO AIDING TERRORIST ORGANIZATION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso, Texas, 19-year-old Mark Robert Walker was sentenced today to two years in federal prison after pleading guilty to Attempting to Make a Contribution of Goods and Services to a Specially Designated Terrorist Organization.

"Terrorists can only operate effectively in secret and with a steady flow of money. Mr. Walker attempted to give aid and support to a known terrorist group. Thanks to aggressive law enforcement, he was unable to get very far and is now on his way to federal prison," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge David Briones ordered that Walker be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

Walker, a.k.a. Abdullah, a student in Laramie, Wyoming, and a resident of Rochester, New York, was detained on November 6, 2004, by officers with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the El Paso Port of Entry as he entered the U.S. from Mexico. At the time, authorities seized approximately \$2,200 cash he was carrying as well as a laptop computer, receipts and a journal. After obtaining a search warrant for the computer, authorities confirmed Walker was an administrator for an Islamic website that supported the terrorist group Al-Ittihad Al-Isiami (AIAI).

By pleading guilty, Walker admitted that he planned to travel to Somalia to provide financial, material and technical support to help overthrow the current government in Somalia and establish a Somali Islamic government. Furthermore, he intended to support AIAI: 1) as a soldier; 2) as a purveyor of materials; 3) by providing technical assistance with weapons; 4) by creating and maintaining internet websites for recruitment purposes; and, 5) by providing personal funds as well as helping to raise additional money for a violent jihad.

AIAI is Somalia's largest militant Islamic Organization and rose to power in the early 1990's following the collapse of the Siad Barre regime. AIAI was placed on the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorist Organizations on September 24, 2001, by the President of the United States of America George W. Bush in Executive Order 13224.

This case was investigated by the El Paso Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald.

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